**Indian Music Terms name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Directions.** Read the passages below and answer the corresponding questions. Type the reposnses in bold print.

**There are three main components to the classical music of India - Drone, Raga, and Tala.**

**The Drone.** Unlike western music's, Indian music is not based on harmony or chord progressions. The harmonic principle of contrast between simultaneous sounds is foreign to the Indian conception of music. The concept of modulating (or changing) keys is also absent. Instead, the music is based on a drone, a continual pitch that sounds throughout the concert. The drone functions as a point of reference and provides a tonal center for the raga which plays over this. Its role is similar to a bass guitar in a rock band or a cello in a string quartet because it emphasizes the key notes (roots) and fifths of the raga. The tampura (or tambura) is the instrument that plays the drone.

1. What is a drone?
2. In terms of harmony, how is Indian music different than Western Music?
3. Which instrument plays the drone? What does it provide? What is its role similar to?

**Raga - Organization of Melody.** "Raga" is one of those troublesome words which has no equivalent in English, and is thus difficult to define. Terms like "generalized melody" or "melodic framework" are perhaps the best English descriptions, although they are only somewhat helpful. Ragas consist of two main parts, the **alap**, “an invocation without rhythm during which the soloist brings all the notes and mood of the raga to life” and the **gat**, which is “always played according to a tala, a particular rhythmic cycle, the speed of which is always increasing.”

A raga is often described as being about halfway between a scale and a tune. A scale is just a set of notes, which can be used in any way you want. A tune leaves no room for spontaneous creation of melody. A raga lacks the total freedom of a scale, but has much more freedom than a tune. The sitar functions like the lead guitar in rock music. The sitarist plays complex and well developed improvised melodies that follow the themes of ragas. The ascending order of notes in a raga is called the **Aaroha.** The descending order of notes in a raga is called the **Avroha.**

1. Give the author’s definition of ‘raga.
2. Compared to Western music a raga lacks the freedom of a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, but it has more freedom than a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. (This is because Indian Music is based on thematic improvisation).
3. Which instrument plays the raga? Describe how the sitar player plays the rags. Are the notes written out? How is this similar to jazz?
4. What are the two parts of a raga? Describe each part.
5. The ascending order of notes in a raga is called the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

The descending order of notes in a raga is called the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Tala - Organization of Rhythm**

In the same way that ragas are melodic structures, talas are rhythmic structures. A tala can be thought of as a rhythmic cycle, divided into equal beats which are collected into subgroups. So, for example, a Dhamar tala has 14 beats (*matra*s) grouped asymmetrically into a 5-2-3-4 pattern.

1. What is a tala?
2. How is the Dhamar tala subdivided?

**Hindustani and Carnatic Music**

Hindustani music is practiced in northern India. It developed from existing folk, religious, and theatrical practices. Hindustani was influenced by both Hindu and Persian traditions and performance practices. Hindustani music emphasizes instrumental works which feature the

sitar, tempura and table drums.

Carnatic music of practiced in southern India. Unlike the music of the north, the emphasis is on vocal works. Most compositions were written to be sung.

The modern motion picture related music of contemporary India is referred to as ‘Bollywood.’

1. Where is Hindustani Music practiced? Which instruments perform this style of Indian music.
2. Where is Carnatic Music practiced? How does it differ from Hindustani Music
3. What does the Bollywood style refer to?

**Directions. Classify the terms below according to musical element or concept by placing them in the box that best relates to the term.**

**Terms: raga, drone, sitar, Hindustani, tampura, Carnatic, table, tala, Bollywood**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Harmony**  **(tonal center)** | **Style** | **Melody** | **Rhythm** | **Medium**  **(Instrument)** |

**Comparing Indian Ragas to Western Music scales and modes name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Indian Raga**

**Name notes**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Asavari | C D Eb F G Ab Bb |
| Bilawal | C D E F G A B |
| Bhairavi | C Db Eb F G Ab Bb |
| Kafi | C D Eb F G A Bb |
| Khamaj | C D E F G A Bb |

**Western Music scale/mode**

**Name notes**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Major scale  (Ionian mode) | C D E F G A B |
| Mixolydian mode | C D E F G A Bb |
| Dorian mode | C D Eb F G A Bb |
| Natural minor scale  (Aeolian mode) | C D Eb F G Ab Bb |
| Phrygian mode | C Db Eb F G Ab Bb |

**Comparative analysis task:**

1. **Which raga corresponds to the Ionian mode?**
2. **Which mode corresponds to the Bhairavi raga?**
3. **Which raga corresponds to the Dorian mode?**
4. **Which mode corresponds to Khamaj raga?**
5. **Which scale corresponds to the Asavari raga?**